

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 658

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Haley Cathryn Ham for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens and their communities; and

WHEREAS, eleven-year-old Haley Cathryn Ham of Sevierville is one such estimable person who, through her outstanding efforts to promote the dangers of antifreeze ingestion, evinces the greatest integrity and probity; and

WHEREAS, Haley's awareness campaign began in April of 2007, when two of her best friends, her dogs, Sam and Jessie, ingested antifreeze and died; and

WHEREAS, though heartbroken over the deaths of her dogs, Haley Ham began working to help ensure that other animals would not suffer the same fate; and

WHEREAS, her research led her to learn that antifreeze contains ethylene glycol, a highly toxic substance, which is attractive to animals and even children because of its sweet taste; and

WHEREAS, as little as one teaspoon can prove fatal, and each year, according to some estimates, nearly 10,000 dogs and cats are victims of accidental poisoning by antifreeze; and

WHEREAS, by adding a small quantity of the most bitter-tasting substance known, denatonium benzoate, at a cost of only two cents per gallon, antifreeze can be made so foul-tasting that it will not be consumed; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ham's campaign to promote the dangers of antifreeze ingestion ultimately led in part to the introduction of a bill in the 105th General Assembly that would require a bittering agent be placed in antifreeze; and

WHEREAS, Haley's efforts have been substantial, and her impact has been considerable; examples of her tireless advocacy include: distribution of flyers about antifreeze's

dangers and instructions for safe handling and storage; an exhibit table and petition for a change in state law at the Sevier County Fair; an online petition that gathered hundreds of signatures and comments, along with an informational Web site; interviews with Knoxville television stations WATE and WBIR; a newspaper interview in *The Mountain Press*; being profiled in the award-winning children's magazine *KIND News* and on Zootoo.com, and many other activities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her singular achievements, Haley Ham was named the United States Humane Society's Kid In Nature's Defense (KIND) Kid Hero of 2008, and she also received the Presidents Volunteer Service Award for Community Service in 2005 for her efforts in saving the Sevier County Fair; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding young woman is a sixth-grader home-schooled through Gateway Christian Academy and exhibits an ardent interest in reading, art, music, and photography, and she has won numerous awards for her abilities as a member and officer of 4-H; and

WHEREAS, her insightfulness and sensitivity regarding the treatment of animals has inspired Miss Ham to use her extraordinary talents by serving as a volunteer with Tennessee Valley Golden Retriever Rescue, and she also expresses a keen interest in horses, horse shows, and veterinary studies; and

WHEREAS, Haley Ham's noteworthy achievements and peerless commitment to public service are a tremendous source of pride for her family and her community; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ham is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Haley Cathryn Ham for her honorable and astute service to the good people of this State and their beloved animal companions by promoting the dangers of antifreeze ingestion. We applaud her tireless advocacy on behalf of antifreeze adulteration legislation and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.